

# Best Management Practices

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION



## Mountain Madtom

*Noturus eleutherus*

**Common name** • Mountain Madtom

**Scientific name** • *Noturus eleutherus*

**State status** • Endangered

### Ecology

Mountain madtoms occur in larger streams of the Mississippi and Ohio River drainages from western Pennsylvania southwestward to Oklahoma. In Missouri, these fish inhabit only a few large, clear rivers in the transition zone between the Ozark and Lowland faunal regions in the southwestern part of the state. Mountain madtoms prefer gravelly riffles with thick growths of aquatic vegetation. They feed primarily at night on aquatic insects such as mayfly, caddisfly and stonefly. Spawning likely occurs in May and June, and males guard the eggs and larvae for a few days post-hatching. Adults typically reach a length of 2.2-3.5 inches.

### Reasons for Decline

Mountain madtoms have historically been uncommon in rivers west of the Mississippi River. However, altering land along streams where madtoms occur may increase siltation, sedimentation and non-point source pollution. These may affect water quality and reduce available habitat.

### Specific Recommendations

Even though records do not suggest that the abundance and distribution of mountain madtoms in Missouri have been altered, it is important that current and potential habitat be protected. To do this, project activities in the mountain madtom range should minimize impacts to streams and riparian corridors.

→ Project activities should not occur below the high water level of the stream between May 15 and July 31.

→ Sand and gravel removal should be avoided in streams with potential habitat for mountain madtoms.

→ Dams and other impoundment structures should be avoided in mountain madtom habitat.

→ Sand bars and similar riverine features should be maintained, and project activities should not occur on or near them in order to maintain habitat for mountain madtoms.

→ Erosion and sediment controls should be strictly implemented, maintained and monitored for the duration of the project.

→ Avoid altering water levels in streams where mountain madtoms occur.

### General Recommendations

Refer to Management Recommendations for Construction Projects Affecting Missouri Streams and Rivers.

### Information Contacts

For further information regarding regulations for development in rivers and streams, contact:

Missouri Department of Conservation  
Policy Coordination Section  
P.O. Box 180  
2901 W. Truman Blvd  
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180  
Telephone: 573/751-4115

Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Environmental Quality  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0176  
Telephone: 573/526-3315

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Regulatory Branch  
700 Federal Building  
Kansas City, MO 64106-2896  
Telephone: 816/983-3990

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Water, Wetlands, and Pesticides Division  
901 North 5th Street  
Kansas City, KS 66101  
Telephone: 913/551-7307

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Ecological Services Field Office  
608 E. Cherry Street, Room 200  
Columbia, MO 65201  
Telephone: 573/876-1911

### Disclaimer

These Best Management Practices were prepared by the Missouri Department of Conservation with assistance from other state agencies, contractors, and others to provide guidance to those people who wish to voluntarily act to protect wildlife and habitat. Compliance with Best Management Practices is not required by the Missouri wildlife and forestry law nor by any regulation of the Missouri Conservation Commission. Other federal, state or local laws may affect construction practices.

2/2000